



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

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March 3, 2004

Paige Graening, Esquire
New England Power Company
25 Research Drive
Westborough, MA 01582

Re: New England Power Company, Petition for Exemption from Zoning By-Law of Town of West Boylston: D.T.E. 04-4

Dear Ms. Graening

Enclosed please find the Department's first set of information requests in the above-captioned matter. Please provide an original and five (5) copies of the responses to these Requests to the Hearing Officer on or before March 18, 2004. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 305-3612.

Respectfully yours,


Andrea Saia
Hearing Officer

cc: Mary Cottrell
Enc.

RECEIVED

MAR 05 2004

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

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**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

NEW ENGLAND
POWER COMPANY

D.T.E. 04-4

**FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY TO
NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY**

Instructions

The following instructions apply to this set of information requests and all subsequent information requests issued by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy to New England Power Company in this proceeding.

"NEP" or "Company" means New England Power Company, its officers, directors, employees, consultants, and attorneys.

2. "Department" means the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy.
3. "Expansion Project" means the proposed expansion of the Wachusett No. 47 Substation in West Boylston described in the Company's January 20, 2004 petition to the Department.
4. Each request should be answered in writing on a separate page with a recitation of the request, and with a reference to the request number, the docket number of the case, and the name of the person responsible for the answer.
5. These requests shall be deemed continuing so as to require further supplemental responses if the Company or its witnesses receives or generates additional information within the scope of these requests between the time of the original response and the close of the record in this proceeding.
6. The phrase "provide complete and detailed documentation" means provide all data, assumptions, and calculations on which the response relies; provide the source of and basis for all data and assumptions employed; include all studies, reports, and planning documents from which data, estimates, or assumptions were drawn and support for how the data or assumptions were used in developing the projections or estimates; and provide and explain all supporting workpapers.
7. The term "document" is used in its broadest sense and includes, without limitation,

writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, phono-records, microfilm, microfiche, computer printouts, correspondence, handwritten notes, records or reports, bills, checks, articles from journals or other sources, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained, and all copies of such documents that bear notations or other markings that differentiate such copies from the original.

8. If the Company finds that any of these requests is ambiguous, please notify the hearing officer so that the requests can be clarified prior to the preparation of a written response.

9. Please serve a copy of the responses on Mary Cottrell, Secretary of the Department. Please also submit one copy of the responses directly to:

- (1) Andrea Saia, Esq., Legal Division
- (2) John Young, Siting Division
- (3) William Febiger, Siting Division

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DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

NEW ENGLAND
POWER COMPANY

D.T.E. 04-4

**FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS OF
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NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY**

Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. 1.06(6)(c), the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") hereby submits to New England Power Company ("NEP" or "Company") the following information requests with respect to the above captioned matter.

- DTE-1-1 Please refer to the Molina testimony at 6, 7, and Exh. AJM-4.
- a. Please clarify the number of locations at which ambient sound levels were measured. Also, where a range of sound levels is given (*i.e.*, "32 to 35 dBA"), please explain how sound measurements were reduced to a range and what the upper and lower ends of the decibel ranges represent.
 - b. Please provide a scaled map showing sound measurement locations in relation to property lines, nearby homes, and current and future sound sources.
 - c. Please provide the distances from the existing Wachusett Substation to: (1) the location designated as "Residence 1"; (2) the nearest property line; and (3) each of the nearest three homes.
 - d. Please provide the distance from the proposed transformers to: (1) the location designated as "Residence 1"; (2) the nearest property line; and (3) each of the nearest three homes.
 - e. Please provide L_{90} sound levels at each of the sound measurement locations, for each monitored time period, as available.
 - f. Please indicate all known sound sources that contributed to the Company's ambient measurements at and around Wachusett Substation.

g. Please discuss whether 30 to 32 dBA represents background noise levels near the Wachusett Substation, away from brooks, traffic, and existing substation noise. Please also discuss whether additional measurements would assist in determining ambient sound levels representative of quiet periods (e.g., L_{90} 's applicable to nearby residences).

h. Please explain how "noise level from existing substation" was calculated.

Please list the sources of noise that would exist during operation of the substation after completion of the proposed project.

j. Please provide the manufacturer's specification on the sound power level of the proposed low-noise transformers.

k. Please explain why adding seven transformers creates an additional sound pressure level that is 60% (i.e., $10^{(2/10)}$) higher than would be obtained by adding five transformers.

Please provide the height(s) and elevations of relevant noise sources, the elevation of the railroad embankment, the height of the noise monitoring station, and the height and elevation of the nearest homes west of the railroad embankment.

m. Please predict noise levels at the nearest three homes; show calculations

Please provide a narrative explanation of pages 2 through 4 of Exh. AJM-4, and provide a more legible copy or version of the Excel spreadsheet that was provided (pages 2, 3).

o. Please discuss whether the new transformers would produce a "pure tone"

p. Does West Boylston have a noise ordinance? If so, please provide a copy to the Department.